

PES-0160

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend Paragraph [0042] as indicated below:

[0042] Referring now to FIGURE 4, first portion 92 is shown. Although the geometry of first portion 92 is shown as being circular across a major face thereof, the geometry may be any configuration that corresponds with the inner volume defined as the working area of the cell. Other configurations include, but are not limited to, rectangular, hexagonal, octagonal, and the like. First portion 92 includes a first major surface 98 and an opposing second major surface 100. First major surface 98 may be textured such that during operation of a cell into which the porous plate support member is incorporated, a flow of fluid is affected that simulates the fluid flow characteristic of a desired flow field. Such a flow serves to hydrate the membrane while providing adequate electrical communication and optionally cooling through the cell. The texturing may comprise a channel 102, as is shown, disposed in an upper surface thereof. Preferably, the texturing is disposed in ~~first major surface 100~~ first major surface 98 via an embossing technique, although other methods (e.g., shaving, grinding, and the like) may be utilized. Channel 102 includes an inlet 104 and at least two legs 106 extending from inlet 104. Inlet 104 receives a water stream from a water supply (not shown) and distributes the water to legs 106. Each leg 106 is embossed or otherwise formed in first major surface 98 and extends across first major surface 98 to distribute the water received across the face. Each leg 106 further includes a terminus 108 positioned proximate the geometric center of first major surface 98. By distributing water directly to the center of first major surface 98, a more uniform diffusion of the water can be facilitated through first portion 92 to the electrode and to an outlet (not shown) disposed within the cell frame.